



Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

*FLATHEAD, HELENA, LEWIS & CLARK
AND LOLO NATIONAL FORESTS*

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

FIRE UPDATE, Friday August 24, 2012 (See [Inciweb maps](#) for locations):

Elbow Pass Complex Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest, 19,753 acres. The Elbow Pass Complex is comprised of five different lightning ignitions from July 12 through July 31. These four fires have merged into one fire, the Elbow Pass Complex: Triple Divide Fire, Rapid Creek Fire, Elbow Pass Fire, and Bar Creek Fire. The fires are generally located 25 miles west southwest of Augusta, Montana. The Falls Point fire is south of the Complex. All are located in inaccessible terrain in heavy fuels. The fires are in the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas and are on three national forests.

The Elbow Pass Complex is currently 19,619 acres; Acres burned: 15,994 acres on the Lewis & Clark National Forest, 3,308 acres on the Flathead National Forest, and 317 acres on the Lolo National Forest. Additionally, 205 acres has burned on the Falls Point fire on the Lolo National Forest.

Yesterday's Activities: The Wildland Fire Module monitored fire spread in South Fork Sun River, took fuel moisture samples and weather observations. One helicopter reconnaissance flight occurred; windy conditions prevented delivery of the batteries to Sugarloaf Mtn. repeater. There was small increase fire growth. There continues to be heat in portions of the fire interior. Crews began removing structure protection from Green Fork cabin. Structure protection remains in place at Benchmark. Little fire activity is seen at Falls Point fire and remains in patrol status.

Today's Planned Activities: Red Flag warnings are in effect until 9 p.m. with predictions of high gusty winds, although they should be offset by lower temperatures and lower relative humidity. The Wildland Fire Module will continue clearing trail as safety permits and will be removing structure protection at Green Fork. Helicopter operations are not planned due to wind projections. All three lookouts are staffed and will assist with radio communications if needed. Fire managers are prepared provide initial attack if requested by the Forest. <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3066/>

Prisoner Lake Fire Spotted Bear Ranger District, Flathead National Forest -. Last update was 8-16-12, no further updates until conditions and/or fire behavior significantly changes. Fire history and past information is at: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3065/>

Falls Point Fire Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, 203 Acres –As of August 16th the Falls Point Fire has been added to the Elbow Pass Complex. Elbow Pass Complex fire information: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3067/>

Wedge Creek Fire –Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, 659 acres. This fire is burning in steep terrain and heavy timber in a remote un-roaded area about two miles south of the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary. The fire is producing a smoke column visible from highway 200. Backing fire continues to occur on the western side of the fire. The fire has increased activity on the eastern side and northeastern side where it is crowning and torching in pockets of heavy timber. The fire is not making major runs and is expected to continue to burn to the north and east. The IC and the District Ranger will fly the fire today assessing the incident and GPSing the perimeter. No water or retardant drops were used yesterday. Due to heavy fuel loadings with intermittent bug-killed trees, steep slopes and inaccessible terrain it is unsafe to have crews on the ground. Actions will continue to engage the fire in a way that will not place firefighters in danger. No structures or property are currently threatened by the fire.

Today's Plan: No direct attack is planned at this time. Actions will continue to engage the fire in a way that will not place firefighters in danger and utilize aircraft to observe and engage the fire as necessary. Weather is expected to be windy with strong gusts today.

[.Inciweb Wedge Creek](#)

Meadow Creek Fire – 8/23/12 was the final update for this fire as fire activity continues to minimize and demobilization of camp and crews has begun.

[Inciweb Meadow Creek](#)

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex – Trail Closures

As of August 24th, 2012

Elbow Pass Fire Complex - Lewis & Clark National Forest lands

The fires are generally located 25 miles west southwest of Augusta, Montana. The Falls Point fire is south of the Complex.

Trail Closures

- South Fork Sun River Trail # 202 (The portion of the trail south of the South Fork Sun River Pack Bridge)
- Straight Creek Trail #212 (The portion of the trail north of Straight Creek Pass)
- Hoadley Creek trail #226
- Patrol Mountain Lookout Trail #213
- Ellis Creek Trail #227
- East Fork Ahorn Trail # 225 (The portion of the trail south of Grizzly Basin)
- Observation Pass Trail #246
- Elbow Pass Trail # 248
- Cigarette Rock Trail #247
- Green Fork Trail # 228
- Petty-Crown Trail #232
- Crown Mountain Trail #270
- Halfmoon Creek Trail #216
- Telephone Creek Trail #274

Wedge Creek Fire - Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

Wedge Creek Fire, 13 miles north of Ovando.

Meadow Creek Fire, three miles east of Coopers Lake.

Trail Closures:

- Fenn Mountain Trail #88 -- the entire trail, beginning in T 16 N, R 12 W, Section 3.
- Conger Point Trail #468 -- the entire trail, beginning in T 17 N, R 11 W, Section 31.
- Dwight Creek Trail #414 -- from the junction with Conger Point Trail #468 to Omar Mountain T 17 N, R 12 W, Section 14.
- Conger Creek Trail #403 -- from the junction with Conger Point Trail #468 T 17 N, R12 W, Sec. 23 to the junction with Canyon Point Trail #1437 T17 N, R 11 W, Sec. 29.

Flathead National Forest Trail Closures

Trail #29, the Smith-Little Salmon Trail

Area Closures are still in effect, refer to Flathead Area Closure map.

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Description of Closed Areas

From the North Fork Cabin, T 17 N, R 10 W, Sec. 29, northwest along the Dry Fork trail #31, but not including the Dry Fork trail #31, to the junction with Canyon-Falls Creek trail #16; thence southwest along the Falls-Canyon Trail #16, but not including the Falls-Canyon trail #16 to the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary in T 17 N, R 11 W, Sec. 28; thence north and west along the Scapegoat Wilderness boundary through Canyon Point and Omar Mountain to the boundary with the Flathead National Forest, Spotted Bear Ranger District; thence northeast along the Forest boundary through Danaher Mountain and Concord Mountain to Triple Divide; thence southeast along the Continental Divide through Flint Mountain and Scapegoat Mountain to the junction of Cave Creek trail #1217; thence west and south along the Cave Creek trail #1217, but not including the Cave Creek trail #1217, to the junction with the Hobnail Tom trail #32; thence south along the Hobnail Tom trail #32, but not including the Hobnail Tom trail #32, southwest to the junction with the Cooney Creek trail #406; thence southeast along the Cooney Creek trail #406, and including the Cooney Creek trail #406 to the boundary with the Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District; thence south and west along the Forest boundary through Olson Peak and Galusha Peak to the junction with the East Fork trail #481 in T 17 N, R 10 W, Sec. 27; thence northwest along the East Fork trail #481, and including the East Fork trail #481 to the junction with the Hobnail Tom trail #32; thence west along the Hobnail Tom trail #32 to the junction with the North Fork Cabin.